



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# AFGHANISTAN

## FACT SHEET

### Samangan Province

#### OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Samangan from January 2002 - December 2010: \$21.3 million

Estimated population: 344,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Aybak

Note: PRT projects deployed from Mazari Sharif



This sparsely populated province, situated in northern Afghanistan, was once the ancient Buddhist center of Takht-e Rostam. It holds high potential as a tourist and archeological destination. The economy is driven by agriculture, and Samangan's farmers cultivate grains, fruits, and nuts on the region's fertile river plains. This geographically isolated area is underdeveloped and has a high rate of illiteracy, although some students have access to education in neighboring Mazari Sharif. The province has no energy infrastructure, which has been a key factor in slowing development.

#### AGRICULTURE

**Goal:** Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

**Summary:** USAID is preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through livestock management and programs to boost capacity for licit agricultural activity in Samangan. In addition, USAID is providing assistance in appropriate management of the native pistachio forest in three villages in Samangan using a community-based natural resource management approach.

#### Current Activities:

- Preserve wild pistachio woodlands and increase rural income through community-based forestry management
- Work with local residents to establish three community forest committees for 30 villages, covering 2,500 hectares of pistachio woodlands (villagers have increased their revenues by 50 percent by harvesting wild pistachios using the forest management model)
- Support Veterinary Field Units that provide animal health services on a sustainable commercial basis and provide extension training to livestock owners
- Expand cashmere marketing and trading support and improved cashmere harvesting
- Support 12 private full-service AgDepot farm stores that provide agriculture supplies and services to support key licit crops and animal health, provide accessible and affordable agricultural inputs (improved seed varieties and fertilizer), and promote the increased production of wheat, while building the capacity of the emerging private-sector seed industry and input supply system



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

# FACT SHEET

## Samangan Province

- Provide agricultural productivity training in annual crops for farmers to improve methods of cultivation and achieve an increase in yields over previous methods
- Provide women's silkworm and wool training and market development for women
- Strengthen the network of agricultural retailers to ensure the sustainable availability of high-quality inputs
- Develop extension services able to improve basic orchard management

### Accomplishments:

- Improved Samangan's environment through natural resource management
- Brought 61,000 hectares of land under improved natural resource management and trained 10 staff of the provincial Agriculture Department
- Installed an AgNet Internet communications system and weather station in the provincial MAIL office, providing access to the National Agriculture Information System database
- Trained the provincial AgNet staff, who now collect and transmit local weather, market price, and agricultural production information to ministry headquarters and local farmers
- Develop a pistachio harvesting and marketing manual and conduct capacity-building activities with committee oversight on proper pistachio harvesting, sorting, and reforestation
- Distributed 219 metric tons of seed and 657 metric tons of fertilizer through a voucher system benefitting 4,380 people
- Trained approximately 16,000 farmers on melon fly control

## DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

**Goal:** Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality of government services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

**Summary:** USAID supports democracy and governance in Samangan Province through activities including legislative strengthening, electoral support, justice-sector reform, media, and civil-society development.

### Current Activities:

- Support the Radio Sadi Haqiqat station in Aibak, Samangan with program funding and technical support as part of a national network of local radio stations that broadcast independent national satellite programming from Salam Watandar
- Support the Association of Defense for Women's Rights Organization as an intermediate civil-society support organization which will organize community dialogues, run resource centers, monitor grantees, and provide capacity building to target civil-society organizations
- Train provincial and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- Embed technical advisors in provincial line departments, who provide on-the-job training to civil servants to increase service delivery
- Provide capacity building, training, and small grants to eight Afghan civil-society organizations showing potential to be sustainable, effective organizations in the province
- Train Provincial Council Members on the council's legal rights, monitoring, and oversight, and getting them to communicate with the constituents and represent them with government entities
- Provide \$25,000/month through the Performance Based Governors Fund for governors to cover operational expenditures and perform community-outreach projects



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# AFGHANISTAN

## FACT SHEET

### Samangan Province

#### Accomplishments:

- Supported the development of the justice sector through the publication and distribution of judicial reference laws
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the Afghanistan Court Administration System
- Provided core, skills, and ethics training for judges allowing them to better officiate over the courts
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, and provided institutional, capacity-building training to civil-society organizations
- Supported the 2010 voter registration update exercise; assisted domestic and international observation missions; trained political parties and candidate poll agents; conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the 2010 election; and provided civic education and media outreach activities for broad-based participation to promote a democratically-elected government
- Provided training and support to provincial councils, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic-education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and Sharia scholars
- Supported voter registration, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys, and supported the 2009 presidential and provincial council elections
- Empowered rural women through literacy education, reducing the high illiteracy rate, and enabling more women to participate in community affairs

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Goal:** Promote a thriving, legal economy led by the private sector.

**Summary:** USAID promotes economic development in Samangan Province through expanding access to modern banking services and telecommunications.

#### Current Activities:

- Raise awareness about commercial law among traders, businesspeople, and local government officials
- Educate the public on commercial law through local radio
- Foster economic opportunities for businesswomen through support to the Samangan Business Women Council
- Promote economic related information and data collection activities in Samangan Province to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices
- Support the revenue reconciliation team of the Samangan Mustofiat, focused on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Promote improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation
- Support a community-owned and managed Islamic Investment and Finance Cooperatives, which provides financial services to members

#### Accomplishments:



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# AFGHANISTAN

## FACT SHEET

### Samangan Province

- Installed six District Communications Network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, Internet, and photocopying services, and launched a public-awareness campaign to promote its use by local governments, non-government organizations, and the general public
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided additional communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private sectors)
- Supported 281 local businesses, including 259 women-owned enterprises, in the carpentry, carpet, embroidery, metalworking, and other sectors to include grants of equipment, training services, and other market development activities
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Samangan Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated Ministry of Finance Financial Management System
- Promoted small-business growth through the construction of the Hazrat-e-Sultan District small market
- Supported the construction of a clean water system and latrines for the main Samangan market to improve sanitation and the overall appearance of the marketplace
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Established a community-based Islamic Investment and Finance Cooperative
- Disbursed approximately \$2.3 million in microfinance loans through USAID-funded microfinance institutions
- Established one Islamic Investment and Finance Cooperative with 5,100 members (11.1 percent women)
- Disbursed more than \$3.3 million in *sharia*-compliant loans

### EDUCATION

**Goal:** Improve the quality of basic education through increased availability of primary school textbooks.

**Summary:** USAID supports educational improvements in Samangan Province through national education programs. USAID has provided literacy and vocational schools training, textbook support, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

#### Current Activities:

- Continue textbook support
- Provide accelerated and remedial education classes for girls

#### Accomplishments:

- Printed approximately 950,000 textbooks
- Constructed 21 schools
- Sponsored a literacy program for 200 women

### HEALTH

**Goal:** Improve access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# AFGHANISTAN

## FACT SHEET

### Samangan Province

**Summary:** USAID's principal health investments in Samangan come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family-planning products and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

**Current Activities:**

- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through 22 private-sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in six sentinel sites
- Train Community Health Worker Trainers and Community Health Supervisors, and orient new non-government organization staff, to expand the use of postpartum family planning
- Construct a 50-bed women's hospital

**Accomplishments:**

- Trained approximately 16,000 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare

### INFRASTRUCTURE

**Goal:** Improve infrastructure to create legal economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

**Summary:** The infrastructure program in Samangan Province focuses on the construction of roads, water, and power facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the local economy through the use of locally available materials.

**Current Activities:**

- Assess the feasibility of constructing a deep well in Royi Doab District

**Accomplishments:**

- Constructed or rehabilitated 106 culverts, one bridge, and one district center road, shortening travel time, improving access to economic opportunities, and providing protection from floods
- Upgraded the Aybak power distribution system to provide electricity to more households and businesses

### STABILIZATION

**Goal:** Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

**Summary:** USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

**Current Activities:**

- Construct a school surrounding wall and provide furniture for the Dolatabad Girls School in Hazrat Sultan District
- Support community-level cash-for-work programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

# FACT SHEET

## Samangan Province

### Accomplishments:

- Improved flood protection and irrigation through construction or rehabilitation of a protection wall in Dara-e-Suf-e-Bala District; a bridge and culverts in Aybak, and an intake in Hazrat-e-Sultan District
- Provided access to clean water and electricity through constructing culverts and two micro-hydropower plants in Roy-e-Doab District, a water reservoir in Dara-e-Suf District, and a micro-hydropower plant in Balouch District
- Provided technical advisors to the provincial governor, the Department of Economy, Department of Women's Affairs, and the Department of Labor and Social Affairs
- Provided office commodities to provincial government facilities
- Supported the Provincial Development Council through capacity-development training
- Constructed community infrastructure, which included school buildings, a water distribution system and reservoir, and a water pipe extension